

REMARKS

The above preliminary amendment is made to remove multiple dependencies from claims 4-6.

A new abstract page is supplied to conform to that appearing on the publication page of the WIPO application, but the new Abstract is typed on a separate page as required by U.S. practice.

A courtesy copy of the present specification is enclosed herewith. However, the World Intellectual Property Office (WIPO) copy should be relied upon if it is already in the U.S. Patent Office.

Applicants respectfully request that the preliminary amendment described herein be entered into the record prior to calculation of the filing fee and prior to examination and consideration of the above-identified application.

If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, Douglas P. Mueller (Reg. No. 30,300), at (612) 371.5237.

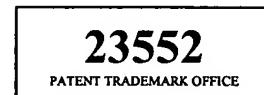
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ABSTRACT

A metadata preparing device comprising a content reproducing unit (1) for reproducing and outputting content, a monitor (3) for monitoring the content reproduced by the content reproducing unit, a voice input unit (4), a voice recognition unit (5) for recognizing a voice signal input from the voice input unit, a metadata generation unit (6) for converting information recognized by the voice recognition unit into metadata, and an identification information imparting unit (7) for acquiring identification information that identifies respective parts in the content from the reproduced content supplied from the content reproducing unit, for imparting to metadata, wherein the generated metadata is so constructed as to be associated with respective parts in the content.